

HOUSE RESOLUTION 328

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Vanderbilt University women's tennis team, 2018 Southeastern Conference Champions.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are honored to recognize those student athletes who, through their athletic endeavors, bring honor and acclaim to themselves, their universities, and this State; and

WHEREAS, one such group of remarkable student athletes is the Vanderbilt University women's tennis team, which recently won the 2018 Southeastern Conference (SEC) regular season championship for the second consecutive season; and

WHEREAS, ranked third in the country, the Commodores concluded their regular season play in the Southeastern Conference on the road against two top ten opponents, the seventh-ranked University of South Carolina and the tenth-ranked University of Florida, both of whom tied with Vanderbilt atop the women's tennis standings with one loss apiece; and

WHEREAS, displaying their dominating skills on the court, the women from Vanderbilt claimed a 4-2 victory over the South Carolina Gamecocks, quickly taking the doubles point and fighting tenaciously in every match before cinching the win with a three-set thriller from Commodore Emily Smith; and

WHEREAS, traveling to Gainesville, Florida, to face the Gators of the University of Florida for the Southeastern Conference regular season title, the Vanderbilt University women's tennis team battled in every match, rallying from a 3-1 deficit to claim the regular season title with a 4-3 victory; and

WHEREAS, the thrilling contest began with another dominating performance by the Commodores in doubles, as Vandy claimed the first point of the match with victories by Fernanda Contreras and Summer Dvorak and Christina Rosca and Amanda Meyer; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Gators rallied in singles play as they picked up the next three points to take a 3-1 lead, needing just one more victory in singles to take the Southeastern Conference crown; and

WHEREAS, battered but not defeated, the Vanderbilt Commodores resolutely dug in and showcased the "Fight 'Dores!" mentality that has become their hallmark, as Emily Smith forced a third set on court six and gained a singles victory, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, and Christina Rosca won another three-set match, 6-1, 1-6, 6-2, to even up the contest 3-3; and

WHEREAS, the final outcome rested on the shoulders of Vanderbilt junior Summer Dvorak, who lost a tiebreaker in the first set, 6-7(3), but won the second 6-3 to force a winner-take-all third set for the match, the contest, and the Southeastern Conference regular season championship; and

WHEREAS, in a match that will go down in Vanderbilt Commodore tennis history, Summer Dvorak fearlessly fought back from being down two break points to win five straight games to take the set and the match, gaining her team the final point and the title of 2018 Southeastern Conference regular season champions; and

WHEREAS, in taking the Commodores' second consecutive regular season title, Vanderbilt finished the regular season with an overall record of 19-3 and 12-1 in Southeastern Conference play, gaining the top seed for the upcoming Southeastern Conference tournament championship; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2018 SEC Champion women's tennis team are Payton Robinette, Astra Sharma, Fernanda Contreras, Summer Dvorak, Emily Smith, Emma Kurtz, Christina Rosca, Lauren Gish, and Amanda Meyer; and

WHEREAS, the Vanderbilt Commodores enjoyed the astute leadership and guidance of Head Coach Geoff Macdonald, Associate Head Coach Aleke Tsoubanos, Volunteer Assistant Coach Kieran Burke, and Strength and Conditioning Coach Emil Iankov; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, perseverance, and commitment to excellence displayed by these individuals, both on and off the court, have enabled them to find success in the athletic arena and will surely engender success in all their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is wholly fitting that the members of this talented team be recognized by this legislative body for their accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize and congratulate Coach Geoff Macdonald and the members of the 2018 Vanderbilt University women's tennis team on winning the SEC regular season championship for the second consecutive year, extending our best wishes for their continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.